April 10, 2019

To: House Committee on Revenue  
Chair Representative Nancy Nathanson  
Vice-Chair Representative Lynn Findley  
Vice-Chair Representative Pam Marsh  
hrev exhibit email

Re: HB 2123 HB 2158 HB 2159 HB 2169 HB 2270 – Taxing tobacco and vaping products – Support

Strokes, heart attacks, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer kill thousands of people each year.

The League of Women Voters of Oregon has a studied Position supporting the prevention of disease. Reducing smoking is one of the most effective public health measures we can take to reduce disease. We are cheered that cigarette smoking is declining among teenagers, but dismayed that vaping is on the rise, addicting a new generation to nicotine. Teenagers are especially sensitive to cigarette price changes, but even some older smokers quit or smoke less in response to price hikes.

So as a public health measure, we support raising taxes on cigarettes, removing the per cigar limit on the cigar tax, and taxing vaping products, both delivery systems and the inhalant-form nicotine, as this group of bills would do.

In addition, these bills would raise considerable revenue. We support HB 2270’s proposal to send the increase in cigarette tax revenue to the Oregon Health Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill Karen Nibler Maud Naroll
LWVOR President LWVOR Social Policy Chair LWVOR Revenue Co-Chair